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NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND PUBLIC POLICY  
2101 CONSTITUTION AVENUE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20418

May 23, 1966

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
Department of Genetics  
Stanford University School of Medicine  
Palo Alto, California

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

As you are probably aware, the Committee on Science and Public Policy of the National Academy of Sciences has embarked upon a systematic program of reviews of the scientific disciplines. To date there have appeared reports on ground-based astronomy, chemistry, physics, and digital computers. I have been asked to chair an equivalent effort in the life sciences. A Committee on Research in the Life Sciences has been appointed and has met twice. The study has been organized as shown on the enclosed sheet.

It is my pleasure to invite you to serve as a member of the Panel on Biology and the Future of Man, of which Dr. Curt Stern is chairman.

We anticipate that your panel may have one or two meetings between June 1 and September 1, to organize its task, which, hopefully, can be completed within eighteen months, depending upon the pace set by yourselves.

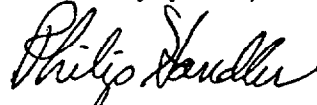
If you have examined the chemistry or physics reports you will have a general idea of the nature and magnitude of our overall task. In general, it will be the task of your panel to identify those recent research accomplishments which have been most significant in your area of concern, to state and define the most pressing problems which seem most promising for attack in the next several years, and to indicate the nature of current barriers to progress in this area, e.g., funds, manpower, instruments, facilities, or ideas. It is hoped also that your panel will give thought to the implications to biology, broadly conceived, and the implications for American society, of successful advancement in this area.

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If we are successful, we should have a powerful impact on the teaching of biology, on the directions of biological research, and on the nature and magnitude of federal support of research in the life sciences over the subsequent five to ten years.

This is a significant and most important challenge. All the Committee members join me in hoping that you will find it both desirable and possible to accept this invitation.

Sincerely yours,



Philip Handler

Please reply to:

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